

The BPL docket, while attractive to power companies, has the potential to render amateur radio operation useless on the high frequency bands. Commercial power lines will make excellent antennas, as will the various branches of house wiring. The ARRL has modeled this potential for RF noise and the noise signal strengths that will be seen at the receiver will far outweigh the strength of weak radio signals we are most often listening for. Worse, now that we are in a time of increased mobilization for emergency communications, can we afford to cripple one of our main backbones? This is not a technology that should be considered for deployment any time soon.

Second, the power companies have little experience in this area, and their record of assistance for amateur operators experiencing noise interference from lines or insulators in bad repair has been spotty at best. This additional potential for major problems does not bode well for amateur communications.

Please be sure to consider the potential deleterious effects of this technology and its deployment methodology before any decision is made.

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